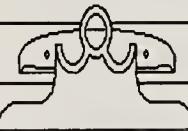


Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana

Editor's News Notes



- THIS MONTH: BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- Tuesday, Feb. 9: Big Screen Movie, *Beloved*, in the Auditorium (Sponsored by SUB)
- Thursday, Feb. 11: Big Screen Movie, *Beloved*, in the Auditorium (Sponsored by SUB)
- Friday, Feb. 12: Lincoln's Birthday, Big Screen Movie, *Beloved*, in the Auditorium (Sponsored by SUB)

- Sunday, Feb. 14: HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
- Monday, Feb. 15: Presidents' Day, Susan B. Anthony Day

- Wednesday, Feb. 17: ASH WEDNESDAY, Birthday of Fr. Phil Gilbert, C.P.P.S., Deadline for RA Applications, Deadline for *Measure* Submissions, MSU Meeting at 7pm in Courtney Auditorium

* If anyone would like a meeting or event to appear in the Editor's News Notes, you can e-mail Maura Giles with the name, time, and place.

—by Sarah Stipher —

Let's give a big welcome to a new addition to the SJC staff, Joan Higgins. Joan is the executive secretary for the Vice President of Student Affairs. She is a 1996 graduate of Kankakee Valley High School and is a 1998 graduate of Davenport Business College. Some educational goals she has set for herself are to further her education and either teach business or study business management.

Higgins comes from a family of two brothers and one sister. She also has two dogs and one Siamese cat.

Her hobbies include spending quality time with family and friends. Another interest is in

stock car racing. She not only enjoys watching the races, but also likes to drive in them. Higgins is also involved in a country line dancing group, County Line, in her hometown of DeMotte.

As her family and friends know, Joan's name is not pronounced how it seems. Don't be fooled by the spelling of her name. J-o-a-n is really pronounced as Jo-Ann. Also, many people mistake her mature features, because this twenty-year-old said generally, people think she is older than she actually is.

Though she's only been here a short time, she said, "I like my job a lot. I enjoy dealing with all the students and faculty, and I hope to be here for a long time."



photo by Lisa Phillips

Joan Higgins, new executive secretary to the Vice President of Student Affairs, looks forward to her time at SJC.

Accept the Challenge

—by Maura Giles —

There's been a bit of commotion the past few weeks over the new ways of promoting the various SUB events on campus.

As most people know, there is a new Student Activities Director at SJC. Stacey Lazenby, featured in the last edition of *The Observer*, has been here for just a few weeks and has already started making many positive changes.

Many students agree that the poor attendance at events on campus is a problem, mainly because the same people go to every event, which makes turning SJC into a true community a very difficult task.

Lazenby is working towards changing that. She has implemented a contest between the different residence

halls on campus. The promotions revolve around a point system. For every person in your residence hall that attends an event sponsored by SUB, your hall receives one point (The more you attend, the more points you earn). This program encourages students to take advantage of the on campus entertainment SUB arranges, and adds a competitive spirit to the fun.

The contest began Tuesday, January 19, with the first showing of *The Waterboy*. The contest will end with the last SUB event of the semester.

The hall that receives the highest percentage of participation becomes "The Hall of the Semester." The winning hall will also win various prizes, and will have

their hall's name engraved on a trophy, which will be kept in Halleck.

Day students will have their own category and will be judged by percentage points also. This is an excel-

lent way to get everyone involved. This way, you can support your SJC community and at the same time, do something for your hall and yourself.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Opinion: Day Students are people too; What's in/What's out

News: Students on Religion, Comedians off Campus

Features: Confessions of a Real Intern, A Movie Exclusive!

Sports: Basketball, Games Ahead

Stuff: At the Movies with Don!

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!!!

WRITE US, PLEASE!

You have an opportunity to voice your opinions about SJC issues; take advantage of it!!!

Letters to the Editor should be placed in *The Observer* box in the Core building or 3rd floor Halleck. They can also be E-mailed to Lisa Phillips.

THUMBS UP

- * The excellent men's basketball game against Bellarmine.
- * To the cast and crew of *The Odd Couple*.
- * Blind Man's Bluff.
- * The Superbowl Commercials
- * Club/Activities Call Out.
- * Dorm heaters that the students can control.
- * The new SUB co-directors and their new methods of advertising.
- * Celebrity Deathmatch on MTV

THUMBS DOWN

- * The new WalMart hours.
- * The crazy weather.
- * Bureaucratic red tape. (work orders, fix the heat requests)
- * E-mailing someone and getting the message back because their message limit has been exceeded.
- * Receiving a forwarded message with 5 pages of forwards and a joke that only takes up three lines.
- * Paying \$60 for a paperback at the bookstore that you only have to read half of for class.
- * People who wash their dishes in the bathroom sink and then leave the leftover food there.
- * People who don't follow directions.



The Odd Couple: Oddly Hysterical

by Lisa Phillips

A suicide telegram, a BLT on pumpernickel toast, and an impossible poker game made for hysterical entertainment in the Columbian Players' performance of *The Odd Couple*. The play, written by Neil Simon, stars Oscar Madison, played by the infamous Will Shannon, and Felix Ungar, played by Steven Giles.

Shannon's stage rage was both hilarious and realistic, making this performance among the best of his career. Oscar was full of conflicting emotions and violent declarations, making the character not only believable but likable. Giles' performance as the obsessively tidy Felix was not only extremely convincing, but endearing and compelling. Giles played the audience like an expert, with beautiful timing and creative improvisation. The best laughs of the show weren't at the lines but at Giles' facial expressions. Together, Shannon and Giles had more than their usual spark. The ex-

change was easy, realistic and magical, taking the audience beyond the normal realm of funny and meaningful into the neurotic world of Oscar and Felix.

Sarah Reasoner and Maura Giles had the audience cracking up with their flamboyant characters, the Pigeon sisters, who went from giggly to gloomy in a matter of moments, thanks to Felix. The poker players Vinny, played by Roger Burns, Speed, played by Shawn Roser, Murray, played by Christopher Herrell, and Rob, played by Craig Phipps were clever, quick and fun, breathing life into the colorful characters and creating a great atmosphere for the rest of the play.



I Love You. Do You Love Me?

by Maura Giles

If you ask most people, it is no coincidence that "I Hate Winter Week" starts on Valentine's Day. For these people, Valentine's Day is a depressing day, when fools dress-up in red, white, and pink, and prance around handing out silly cards that say things like, "Bee Mine Valentine" or "You're tops with me, Valentine."

Every year, on February 14, children pass out life savers with index cards to their

secret crushes, while older people get engaged, give flowers, or get candy. If you ask the same people you asked earlier, most would agree that Valentine's Day is just for people in love. I disagree. Valentine's Day is a day of brotherly love, too.

With the tragic V-Day approaching, I am beginning to notice many unhappy faces. These are the faces of those who do not have a "special someone." I say, "so what!" Everyone

Day Students Are People Too.

by Amy VanSchepen

Full time day students pay enough to come to Saint Joe's and I don't think it is fair that they have to pay for their lunches also. I think that the least the college could do is give them so many vouchers for a free meal and at the end of the year the day students come in and pay so much for the vouchers they use. It is ridiculous the amount we have to pay to eat in the cafeteria just so we get a balanced meal. Plus we feel like idiots holding up the line just to pay. It would be so much easier to turn in a voucher to get a meal.

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Length)

Submission Guidelines: Sign &
include telephone number.
- Pseudonyms accepted but
discouraged.

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the right not to print letters
found to violate applicable
policies

STUDENTS TAKE A STAND ON RELIGION

— by Chris Gibson —

"Christianity is constantly slamming me in the face, something I don't accept," says junior, Roger Burns, an atheist. "These are my beliefs, and I'm not pressuring anyone to accept them."

On a Catholic college campus, everyone may not be Catholic, or even Christian. But the student body ought to be in touch with its spirituality. In this issue, *The Observer* takes a look at different perspectives on spirituality all over the campus. The search begins with four random interviews where each student was asked if there are any particular religious issues they wanted to speak about, or any criticism that should be

considered when making such important religious choices.

"People consider me religious, considering I'm an atheist. Typically I'm an atheist because I don't believe in an all knowing, all powerful God," Burns says that since

coming to Saint Joseph's religion has not been such a hot button issue, but growing up, things were different.

"Once I found out I didn't want to be a Christian, I was even called a Satanist, which is strange, considering I don't believe in Satan." He describes growing up in Rensselaer as very stagnant. The kids he went to school with, "had a very closed mind. They weren't exposed to many religions. Everyone considered themselves Christian." But not Roger.

"I found [Christianity] very unsatisfy-

ing in middle school. Initially I was just a flat out atheist." But later, he says, he followed the scientific method: "Explore all possibilities. I had a problem with atheism. It didn't seem right that there's nothing supernatural. It doesn't seem that something as glorious, say, as the human

mind, should just end."

Burns has a more personal religion now, asked about it, he says. "It's different probably than anything that's ever existed." Though he does not seem to be your typical atheist, Burns claims he is because although he believes there is "something", he is not sure he would name it God. "I believe in the supernatural, just not like the other religions have it."

I was even called a Satanist, which is strange, considering I don't believe in Satan.
-Roger Burns

Twenty-one year old transfer student Patty Eberly also claims atheism, When

asked about her religious views, she initially stated, "I don't have a view. But atheist sounds so bad."

Eberly was raised by a Buddhist mother and a non-practicing Catholic father. "I tried both," she says, "But I have trouble putting my faith and reason into an entity you can't see. Or isn't there when you need him most... That unanswered prayer thing..." she shakes her head.

About prayer, Eberly says, "I never really prayed. No," she recalls, "Once, when I was in a miserable situation, I prayed. I was in debt. I was alone. No family, I didn't know what to do."

But it is not this that made Patty an atheist. She says it was not one definite event, but something that she spent her whole life growing into. There are many problems Eberly has with religion, "Why is there so much suffering? All my life, since I was old enough to understand religion, I've held my opinion. And where I was growing up," she takes a drag from her

cigarette, "there was so much going on..."

Freshman Ben Stager shares the same irritation as Burns with having been in places where religion is forced upon you, "What I don't like are the people who are extremely zealous.... When you try to push [religion] on someone."

This is the same concern of junior Amber Chamberlin. "I have a problem with people forcing religion on you," says Chamberlin, "I like it here, it's more relaxed."

Amber is a practicing Catholic, and says, "It's not forced on me. Here [at Saint Joseph's College] you take what you want."

"It was an influence in the house." Amber says of Catholicism, "Confirmation was something I wanted to do. It was like finishing your childhood, beginning your adulthood. I'm very involved in the Church... The Church is very important to me. My parents raised me that way."

But it is not merely the influence of her household that keeps Amber Chamberlin Christian. "I love God, and believe in God," as opposed to when she was younger and simply went to church because she was told, "I think I have that special relationship. I believe in Jesus, but there are so many things that are unexplainable." She confesses having struggles with the person of Jesus, but says, "A friend brought to my attention: Jesus is the Son of God. Not just a prophet."

When asked about those people on campus who do not share her Christianity, and what she would say to them, Amber Chamberlin shares the same unwillingness to fight that our first three interviewees did. "It's hard to argue. I don't want to argue."

Counseling for Survivors of Child Abuse

The Counseling Center, in coordination with interested students, will soon be starting a "Survivors of Child Abuse" support group. This will be a student support group for those enduring any type of maltreatment, physical or emotional. The group will offer an opportunity to share and process experiences and move forward in life. It will be lead by an SJC student and complete confidentiality is assured. Contact Mike Singleton at x6314 or by email if interested.

Do You Want to Measure Up?

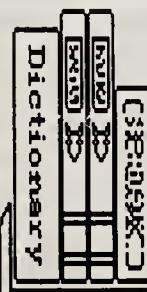
— by Lisa Phillips —

Measure is currently taking submissions for this year's edition. *Measure* is a yearly publication that showcases the artistic and literary talent of the SJC community. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact myself, Lisa Phillips, or Robert Garrity for submission guidelines.

Submissions are being accepted until February 17, 1999. The staff will then

have a meeting, which is open to anyone, in order to decide what should be published in the magazine. The submissions are then voted on, and the pieces with the highest number of votes go into the publication. Short stories, poetry and drawings, as well as other means of artistic expression, are accepted. Distribution of the magazine is tentatively scheduled for April 26, 1999. Everyone is welcome to contribute, including faculty as well as students of SJC.

For Your Information



College Comedy Campaign 99

Wednesday Feb. 10, 1999

Halleck Center Ballroom

Showtime: 7:00 p.m.

Comedians

B-Cole

DeRay

Damon Williams

Leon Rogers

Music by
Dolla Bill

Presented by Minority Student Union Association with OMA and Student Activities

SJC'S Own Version of Monica...

Heather Hagan Provides us With Confessions of a Real Intern

by Heather Hagan

I have a confession to make. I am an intern. There, I've said it.. Now we can just go on and get all of the Monica Lewinsky jokes out of the way. I'll pause for a moment and allow you to insert your own intern joke here... Done? OK, let's move on, shall we?

This semester I left the shelter and familiarity of St. Joe to sample the real world for a while. I am interning with the law firm Johnson Smith Penne Densborn Wright & Heath in Indianapolis. At Johnson Smith, I am a member

I left the shelter and familiarity of St. Joe to sample the real world for a while.

of the legislative team, working with the firm's lobbyists during the current session of the Indiana General Assembly. When I first interviewed for this position, the job was described to me as being "fifty percent really interesting stuff and fifty percent stuff no one else wants to do." I would say that so far that is a fairly accurate depiction.

My main job at Johnson Smith is to track legislation as it makes its course through the House and Senate. I am in charge of the weekly bill tracking reports that are mailed out to the firm's clients, letting them know about any legislation that might be of interest to them or have an impact on their companies. I also sit in on House and Senate committee meetings, keeping my ears opened at all times for any mention of action on bills that affect the firm's clients. That's the interesting part. It has been truly fascinating to observe the law at work and to see legislation being created before me. I even had the unique opportunity of attending Governor O'Bannon's State of the State address where he laid out his goals for this session of the General Assembly.

I don't think that we truly appreciate the enormous effort that goes into lawmaking until we see it done firsthand. What would probably surprise people the most about the whole

process is the enormous amount of new legislation that is introduced each session. It is my belief that we live in a society that, generally speaking, functions pretty well, so of course the question that comes to mind is "Why do we need all these new laws?" I mean, is hunting while intoxicated really a burning issue? Is body piercing something that legislators need to be concerned about? You would be surprised. There are actual bills on these issues going through the legislature right now.

Of course, with the interesting parts of my job come the not so interesting parts -- copying, filing,

faxing, running errands. These are the things that every intern must suffer through because as the intern, you are at the very bottom of the totem pole. A saying about a certain bodily excrement rolling downhill (if you know what I mean) comes to mind.

As part of the legislative team, I work for a group of four lobbyists. There have been times when, within minutes of one another, they have each given me a different project or task which all seem to be of equal importance. This is when very good decision making and time management skills come in handy. But even with those skills, there are times when you begin to wonder if it is possible to be all things to all people. I have learned already that it is not entirely possible, but that does not mean that you give any less than 110% of your effort at all times, regardless. It has to be said, though, that even the less-than-appealing work can still be a valuable experience in some ways. It has taught me some basic skills that will be useful to me in any walk of life. And I also know that someday when I am an attorney, as I hope to be, that I will have the utmost appreciation for my support staff.

One thing that I have been asked about frequently since beginning my internship is my reaction to "the real

world." For me, the main thing that I have had to get accustomed to is the shift in responsibility. In school, you are really only responsible for yourself and the decisions you make really only affect you. College is a very self-centered time in a person's life, and I don't mean that in a negative way. That is how it should be, with the focus on bettering yourself through getting an education. In the so-called "real world", I have quickly come to the realization that my actions affect not just myself but other people as well. If I make a mistake, the results of that mistake are not just limited to myself but will affect my co-workers as well. That is a lot of responsibility to get used to, but a valuable lesson to learn in the long run.

I have only been an intern for four weeks now, but I can already tell that my internship is going to be filled with valuable lessons. It is an experience that I would recommend to anyone. And hey, if you're tough enough to make it through all the intern jokes, then that in itself is an accomplishment!

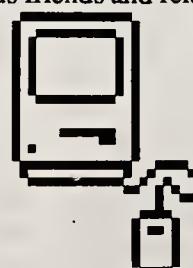
Check Out The Observer on-line!

Read about the editors and the history of the newspaper this semester!

Print out your favorite Articles!

Email the editors with comments!

Share your newspaper with off-campus friends and relatives!



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A CLUB IS BORN

by Zac Pala

Do you meet with on-campus friends on a weekly basis to play cards or watch old war movies? If so, have you ever wondered if there were other SJC students with the same rituals or interests? Maybe they would be interested in joining your group.

If this applies to you, why not form a club of students that participate in these same activities. The following are the steps and requirements needed to form an official student club/organization at SJC.

Obviously, the first step would be to establish a core group of students that are interested in a certain topic. Step two requires the creation of a club constitution.

A club constitution entails the name of the club, its purpose, membership qualifications and eligibility, officer titles, duties, and qualifications, meetings, committees, advisor selection and duties, and amendments.

The third phase calls for submitting the constitution to the student activities office. After it is reviewed by the student activities director it will be given to the Vice President for Student Affairs for approval.

If approval is given by Student Affairs, the constitution along with a letter of endorsement will be sent to the Student Senate and Association for ratification. If the constitution is ratified, the organization will become an authorized SJC club as soon as the proper paperwork is completed.

The fourth and final step involves filling out a Student Organization Registration Form, and putting it under file with the Student Activities Office.

If starting an official SJC student club or organization appeals to you, additional important information can be found in the SJC Club and Organization Handbook. The handbook is available in the Student Activities Office, which is located on the second floor of the Halleck Center.

AN OBSERVER MOVIE REVIEW EXCLUSIVE:

A Message that Delivers Itself

by Don Shanahan

First and foremost, it is my privilege to bring you, the readers, an exclusive pre-release movie review. Most of the reviews I write are for movies that are already a few weeks old. That's the time restraint I find when writing for a deadline. This will beat the movie's own release date, just like the pro's movie reviews. On January 30, I was able to attend a special sneak preview for *Message in a Bottle* starring Kevin Costner, Robin Wright Penn, and Paul Newman from the director of *When a Man Loves a Woman*. The movie is due to release nationwide on Valentine's Day weekend on February 12, but I'm able to

get this up-to-the-minute movie review to you today.

I cannot even get to the plot of this movie without telling you that this movie knocked my socks off. This was one of the most powerful and heart aching love stories I've ever experienced in a movie. Last year there were romantic dramas like *City of Angels*, *What Dreams May Come*, *The Horse Whisperer*, and *Meet Joe Black*. *Message in a Bottle* is right up there, if not better than these. I have to admit, I got a little misty-eyed watching this, and I don't get that way watching a movie too often. I can tell you all right now, that I will definitely see this movie again when it fully comes out.

Message in A Bottle

surrounds the search for love and closure. Shipbuilder and sailor Garrett Blake (Kevin Costner) has grieved the untimely death of his wife, Catherine, for nearly three years. He has lost all sense of love and emotion and lives in deep depression with his father Dodge (a comically touching Paul Newman). To get a little of what he once had, he writes his deceased wife unsigned letters that he preserves in wine bottles and tosses into the sea.

While vacationing in the Carolinas away from the city, Theresa Osborne (Robin Wright Penn), a newspaper researcher in Chicago, finds one of Garrett's messages while jogging along the beach. Theresa is

a work-aholic single, divorced mother of a young son. Deeply inspired and touched by the honest letter, she decides to seek out its author. After researching everything from the age of the wine cork to the stationary emblem on the letter, Theresa finds her way to St. Clare, North Carolina and Garrett.

Theresa does not tell Garrett upon meeting him that she knows about the letters. After sailing together and spending intimate time with each other, Theresa falls in love with Garrett. Garrett, though, cannot seem to shake the memory and emotions he deeply feels for Catherine.

Continued on page 8



Moving On Up and Out



A Tribute to the Class of 1999

by Jamie Riberto

Like sands through an hour glass, these are the days of our lives. Yes, I am talking about the soap opera, Days of Our Lives. Many of us jokingly compare our Saint Joseph's College experience to Beverly Hills 90210 or the other soap operas that we all tune into everyday. Four years ago we started out at Saint Joseph's as freshman and today we are getting closer to finishing this chapter of our lives.

Like any soap opera, Saint Joseph's is all about people coming and going in our lives and the same stories and constant happenings, but when you think about it, May 9th will be all about those that had a part in the show and have kept their starring role. We are all in this together. We began as a class and we will end as a class. Now as we enter Halleck each day and see the countdown of days until graduation, the realization begins to settle in. We are seniors and we will be ending our journey three months from now.

Last week I got fitted for my cap and gown. The other day I turned in my resume to the Career Center. Every Core 10 class is talking about our presentation and paper. It is all

coming to an end and it will be over before we know it. We no longer have to make out another class schedule, our last "real" spring break is next month, and even our last midterms are coming up soon.

I know I have done my share of complaining over the years about not being able to live in an apartment, the college being too small, and of course Core lectures, but in reality, all of my complaints make my college experience as great as it has been.

Can you tell that I am scared of graduating? Not a day goes by that a thought does not cross my mind about graduation. Call me sensitive, but I am sad to leave this place that I have called home these last four years. I have come to love our little school in the middle of nowhere. I have learned a lot, had a lot of great experiences and memories and met the greatest friends in the world.

Now with our last semester of college upon me, I sit back and think to myself about how time flies. It is hard to believe and accept that my college career is coming to an end. I remember the day I moved in here like it was yesterday. I remember those first friends I met, those nights I felt so homesick, and the frustrations of classes. Now I am a senior ready to

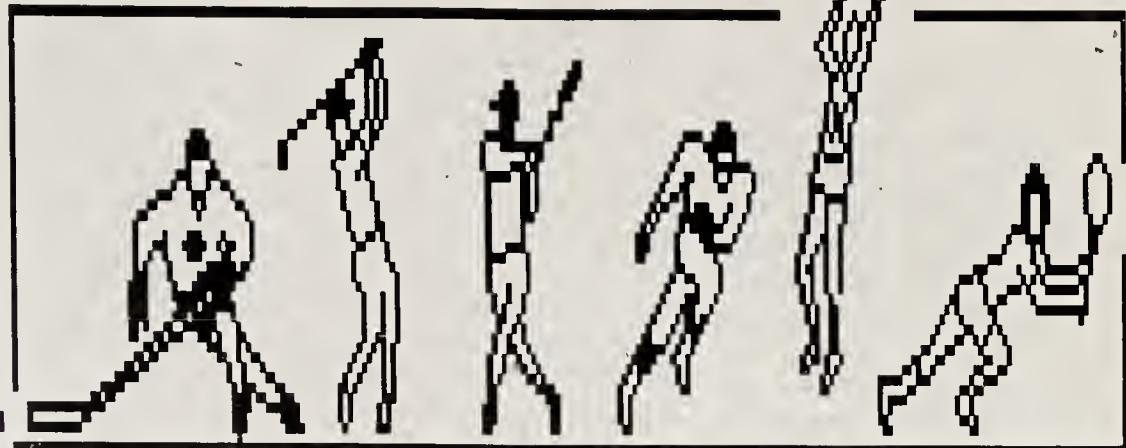
face the "real world." I mean, I will not see all my friends everyday after May. We will all lead different lives and it won't be about meeting down in Core 11 for a few drinks and a game of darts. I will no longer be stressing about a test or project but a work assignment. It is scary but what I would give to be young again. Everyone says they want to graduate but do we really? Life will be so different from what we are used to. Instead of walking around on campus and smiling and saying hi to almost the entire student body, we will be walking through the office trying to remember everyone's names. We can no longer turn to our parents to pay the charges we ring up at the HUB and the bookstore but we have to face the bills on our own. We will no longer be able to sleep in until 10:00 when our first class is.

I challenge all the seniors to enjoy this last semester to the fullest because it will be over before we know it. Do you know everyone in our graduating class? If not, I challenge you to make an effort to get to know those who are unfamiliar to you. Encourage those other seniors around you who are making decisions that will effect the rest of their lives. Offer your support and an encourag-

ing smile and word. Get into a detailed conversation like we have learned to do in Core and help others make those important decisions. Inspire others with your thoughts and believe in those you have come to call your family in the last four years. We are all adults on the same page. We are all looking for a job or applying to graduate school. Many of us are scared and many of us are excited, but we must believe in each other. Isn't that what family is about? Over the past four years, the senior class has become a family living through the same problems and facing the same decisions. We have had good times and bad times, but now we are about to face the end of something we thought would never come.

These are the days of our lives. College is one of the best experiences. Do not let the next few months pass you up. We have made lifelong friends in college and memories that will last forever. So, before the credits roll on graduation day, make the most of what is left of this chapter of our lives. Go to Core XI, have fun, find a good job. You do not want to look back and regret any decisions, but look back and say to yourself, "That was the best series finale."

GLVC FALL ATHLETES HONORED



by Jamie Riberto —

On Thursday evening, January 21st, several Puma athletes were honored at the half-time game of the men's basketball game for being named to the 1998-99 Fall Academic All-GLVC squad. In order to make the GLVC squad, athletes must be a starter or a substitute and maintain a 3.0 GPA during a 3.2 over the last two seasons.

The term GLVC stands for the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which is the athletic conference Saint Joseph's College participates in. It consists of twelve schools from the states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Kentucky: Kentucky Wesleyan, Bellarmine, Indiana State University, University of Indianapolis, St. Joseph's College, Lewis University, Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne, Northern Kentucky Wesleyan,

The following athletes were honored for being named to the 1998-99 Fall Academic All-GLVC squad:

VOLLEYBALL

Katie Carroll
Kati Conlon
Melissa Grier
Beth Hollenbeck
Katie Mack
Angie Mosier
Kari Puzauskas
Jill Stevens
Traci Wall

MEN'S SOCCER

Damien DellaCroce
KJ Falk
Ryan Kasper
Mike Thompson

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Elizabeth Decker
Andrica Dick
Jillian LaBarge
Amanda Lundeen
Jill Orzechoski
Kimberly Riccardo

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Amanda Bailey
Sara Booth
Holly Copeland
Cathy Cox
Kelly Fahey
Leslie Hilbert
Jill Hrobsky
Heidi Klaus
Kate Lizzi
Jaime Marshall
Shay McGuire
Julie Recker
Mary Reid

WOMEN'S GOLF

Kristi Flick
Marcy Janjetic
Chrissy Staffan
Beth Jerzyk

MEN'S GOLF

Josh Lenk

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Teresa Gaura
Holly Ann Stefanik
Shana Wyatt

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

TRY
Damon Dexter
Tim Newman
Matt Stout

WORKING HARD AND WORKING TOGETHER

—by Bree Ma'Ayeh—

Quincy University, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and University of Missouri St. Louis.

The GLVC recently hired its first full-time commissioner last year, Carl McAloose. The conference consists of fifteen cham-

pionships in baseball, basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, track and field, and tennis for men. For the women's side, the conference participates in basketball, cross country, golf, softball, soccer, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

The GLVC originated in 1972.

Ever since November, the women's track team has been conditioning for the spring season. Now that it is here, the girls are ready to make some magic.

Coach Bill Massoels

was nice enough to take a few minutes out of his busy day to talk to me about some of the goals the girls have set for the next few months. They include competing in every meet, having a 7.50% winning percentage, finishing in the top 25 in the indoor events, and placing in the top 17 for outdoor events.

The team has already been to a few meets, their first one taking place at Purdue University on Friday, January 15. Massoels said that the girls did very well. "It was a great building block for the rest of the season," he stated. "We're off to a great start."

Overall, there's a lot of positive feelings for future meets, and the girls are pulling together in order to make this season a success. "The team's working hard—they're definitely willing to make huge sacrifices [to win]", Massoels said proudly.

From now until May 1, the track team is on the prowl, out to win as many meets and events as possible. Those who qualify will go on to compete in the National Championship (Outdoors) on Memorial Day weekend.



GAMES AHEAD

February 4

5:30 PM: Women's Basketball vs Southern IL University Edwardsville

7:30 PM: Men's Basketball vs Southern IL University Edwardsville

February 6

Indoor track at Wisconsin-Stevens Point

1:00 PM: Women's Basketball vs University of Southern Indiana

3:00 PM: Men's Basketball vs University of Southern Indiana

February 9

5:30 PM: Women's Basketball vs IUBU Fort Wayne

7:30 PM: Men's Basketball vs IPFW

February 11

5:30 PM: Women's Basketball at University of Indianapolis

7:30 PM: Men's Basketball at University of Indianapolis

February 13

1:00 PM: Women's Basketball at N. Kentucky University

3:00 PM: Men's Basketball at N. Kentucky University

GO, PUMAS!

YATES TIPS THE SCALES FOR PUMAS

—by TJ Szerensce—

All teams are created equal, but some are more equal than others. So it was when the Puma men's basketball team met up with GLVC rival, Bellarmine on Saturday January 23. The two

teams were nearly identical in rebounds, turn-

overs, field goal percentage, three-point goals, and even intentional fouls.

The stats that tipped the scales for the Pumas

The lead bounced back and forth between the two teams.

were the freethrow percentage, and the outstanding performance of Sophomore Brandon Yates. The former was a 20% difference, the latter, a 28 point career high. This gave the men's basketball team their first home win since the end of November.

After trailing by thirteen at the half, the Pumas capitalized on

a Bellarmine intentional foul, and started a 9-0 run that brought them within one point of the lead. The lead bounced back and forth between the two teams until a lay-up basket by Goldie Ashford put the Pumas ahead for good in the 85-76 St. Joe win.

Brandon Yates's 28 point career high game kept the Pumas in conten-

tion all afternoon long. Shooting 69% from the field, and 100% from the free throw line, Yates was the game's top scorer.

The Saint Joe men's squad, now 6-10 overall (5-7 in the GLVC) swept Bellarmine (9-10 overall, 5-8 in the GLVC) by taking both of the meetings of their series.

**GOOD JOB,
PUMAS!**

To Score Or Not To Score

*information provided by Joe Danahey

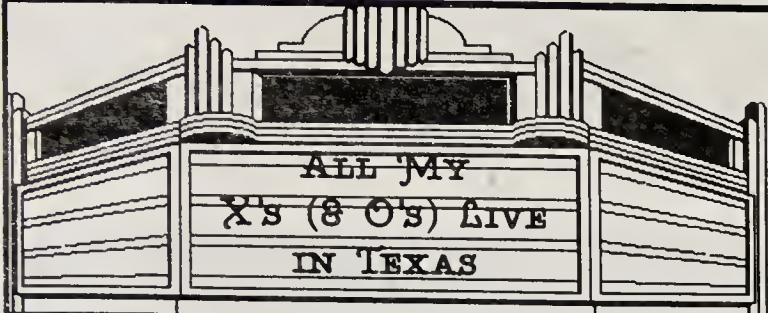
On Thursday, January 29, the women's basketball team defeated Quincy University 81-69 as Angie Hupfer led the way with 29 points and Shanan Jackson chipped in 10 points. Then on Saturday evening in St. Louis, the Pumas lost 92-81 to Missouri-St. Louis as Angie Hupfer again led the way with a game high 38 points. Tamara Bumpers added 20 points. SJC is now 11-8 overall and 8-7 in the GLVC. The men also went 1-1 over the weekend. In Quincy on Thursday, the Pumas lost 87-72 to the Hawks as Brandon Yates led the way with a game high 20 points. Brent Mason added 13 while Greg Taylor chipped in 11. In St. Louis on Saturday, SJC defeated Missouri-St. Louis 82-69 to improve to 7-12 overall and 6-9 in the GLVC. Brandon Yates again led the way with a game high 21 points. Brent Mason and Greg Taylor each added 11 points respectively.

**WAY TO GO,
PUMAS!**

photo by Charles Martin



February 4, 1999



*At the
Movies
with Don!*

— by Don Shanahan —

Welcome again, Pumas, for another *Observer* movie review. The review this week is for you athletes out there. By my calculation, that is probably about 70% of the campus. My Seifert boys have heard me talk about this movie for weeks now and I just have to share it with all of you fellow Pumas. It is the most recent high-profile movie I've seen before this deadline. This week I am going to be talking about *Varsity Blues* starring James Van Der Beek of TV's "Dawson's Creek."

If you think about it, sports movies seem to always be set up the same. Let's face it, many of the big favorites like *The Program* and *Major League* are all alike. There's always a rebellious or troubled star player main character who is somehow also involved in an unnecessary romance that eats away at screen time for the real action. There's always a supporting cast of cronies and coaches that fill every demograph from the wisecracking New Yorker to Virginia farm boy. There's also hard-hitting and up-to-date problem issues that act as a theme to it all. And, of course, there's always a final "big game" to close out the show.

Varsity Blues takes this mold, follows it some, but blows it to pieces. Instead of the main character being the star player, he's the pine-rider. That bench warmer is Johnny Moxon (Van Der Beek), the highly talented, yet passed aside backup quarterback who cares more about getting

out of town after his senior year than putting up with another football season. If you don't know about football (I'm talking to you, ladies), the backup quarterback is just like a Waterboy with a uniform and a hint of talent.

Instead of having the "dirty dozen" mix of stereotypes, you have an entire team of crazy, beer-guzzling, drawl-speaking Texas good-ole-boys. There's party animal/wide receiver Tweeder (Scott Caan, son of James Caan of *The Program*), the immensely overweight and unappreciated lineman Billy Bob (newcomer Ron Lester), and injured star quarterback (Paul Walker of *Pleasantville*) to name a few. Over all the players is a tyrannical, abusive, and obsessive head coach Bud Kilmer played by the always sinister John Voight (*Enemy of the State, Mission: Impossible*). Kilmer will stop at nothing and try anything, legal or illegal, to win the game.

The plot setup is quite different from the ordinary underdog-makes-it-big football scheme. The West Canaan Coyotes are already on top of their game and on track for a district championship when their star quarterback and town hero goes down with a season ending injury. This thrusts Moxon and his buddies into the spotlight and on the hot seat. In the way is Coach Kilmer. Despite the team's success under Moxon, Kilmer has it out to ruin Johnny and his teammates, success or not. This hatred on both sides builds and culminates to that "big game" at the end for all the marbles.

Despite the football action and theme, its the downtime and postgame time that takes the cake in *Varsity Blues*. There is some absolutely crazy stuff at their parties that I cannot fully

explain properly for this gentle college audience. Remember, the faculty and security people read this paper too. All I can say is bad southern accents, whip cream, washing machines, the sex education teacher, whiffle bats, cowboy hats, and a lot of alcohol are all involved along the way.

Varsity Blues may be farfetched as far as the partying and football action goes. There are some things, like kicking out your head coach and playing without him, that wouldn't happen for real, but the movie is hilarious, fun, and exciting. Like I said before, it is the in-between, anti-soap opera scenes that send this movie over the top.

Also, don't let the James Van Der Beek name fool you, ladies. Despite his teenybopper heart throb status with you girls, this is a movie you probably won't like unless you really, really like football itself. This is truly a "guy's night out" movie and we were due for one. We can only watch *StepMom* so many times before we snap. The majority of women and older adults will probably find *Varsity Blues* vulgar and obscene.

On the other hand, for us guys, this is good, very good. Don't say I didn't warn you, ladies! Next issue is near Valentine's Day. I'll go back to my soft side of reviewing when I hope to catch romances like *Simply Irresistible*, and *Blast from the Past*. That will cheer you up. Until then, have fun guys!

Check out Don's exclusive review of *Message in a Bottle*!

Movie Exclusive

Continued from page 5

Will they bring their love together and make it work? Can Garrett let go of his wife? Well, I cannot give that away, but the ending is very unexpected and will surprise you.

Message in a Bottle is one of the most romantic movies I've ever seen. The story is amazingly powerful and deep. It is definitely a romantic drama and not a cheesy, happy-ending romantic comedy. This had the women balling, so bring a lot of tissues. It is a great, yet different Valentine date movie than those typical romantic comedies you see every year at this time. Also, it is not overly long in length. *Message in a Bottle* runs at two hours and fifteen minutes. Last year, a lot of romantic dramas like this, particularly *The Horse Whisperer* and *Meet Joe Black*, ran for a butt-aching three hours each. This one definitely keep your focus the whole way thanks to its sweeping photography and seaside scenery to go with the great story.

The movie is based on the bestselling book of the same name by Nicholas Sparks. I don't follow books too much, but I'm told that *Message in a Bottle* was the hot romance book of the summer last year and that the movie does a great job at staying true to what is written. Even though I do not read books casually at all, this is one I may just have to pick up and try.

All of the performances in this movie were fantastic. Kevin Costner, after a few bumpy years of late with dud movies like *The Postman*, *Tin Cup*, and *Waterworld*, has found a honest and dramatic side I have not seen in him in a long time. The little-known Robin Wright Penn was beautiful. Many of you probably know her as "Jenny" in *Forrest Gump* alongside Tom Hanks. She did a wonderful job in the leading lady role. To top everything off, there is the legendary Paul Newman playing Costner's father. He's the glue that holds everyone together and comes away with all the best lines.

I highly recommend this movie to all of the SJC community, dates, couples, married and unmarried faculty members, no matter. Older audiences will definitely appreciate Kevin Costner, Paul Newman, and the highly literary love story. The younger viewers, like myself, will get in touch with their emotions and learn to appreciate what that older audience already knows and loves. *Message in a Bottle* was simply beautiful.

That release date again was February 12. Go see it. Bring someone you love. Sit back and simply enjoy a truly great movie. Thanks and see you next issue.

Winter

Children in mittens

Winter scenes on frosted windowpanes

Snowmen standing tall in old clothes

Snowball fights and snow forts

Sledding down the bumpy hill

Frostbitten toes and fingers

Hot chocolate on the stove

A bustling fire waiting inside.

Jamie Roberto